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The motives here assigned by Dr. Watson are certain to be set down by history as the real cause of the war. There are undoubtedly multitudes of English people who justify the war on other and higher grounds. It is not probable, either, that the Salisbury government as a whole deliberately went into the war from such motives. But their crime is that they allowed themselves to be hooked in the nose and led away by Mr. Chamberlain and the South African Ring. At least that is the opinion of a great number of the truest men in England, who are very close to Downing Street, and from whom the real secrets of the situation are not and have not been kept hidden. How bitterly the sin is already being paid for!

**Boer
Character.**

There has been a persistent effort, ever since hostilities broke out in South Africa, to reduce the character of the Boers to the blackest and most barbarous type. That has been one of the chief arguments by which the British have been kept in patriotic and fighting mood. It is always so in war, each side holding the other in the lowest disrepute. Here is what an English prisoner, a lieutenant of the Royal Irish Fusiliers, writes to his father of the treatment received by himself and his fellow-prisoners at Pretoria:

"We were all taken prisoners, together with the Gloucester Regiment and a battery of mountain artillery, which accounts for us being in Pretoria so soon. While we were in their laager they treated us extremely well and gave us food and tobacco. All you read about the Boers in England is absolutely untrue. They are most kind to the wounded and prisoners, looking after them as well as their own wounded, and anything they've got they will give you if you ask them, even if they deprive themselves. We came up to Pretoria in first-class sleeping carriages, and the way they treated us was most considerate, feeding us and giving us coffee every time we stopped. The day we arrived we took up quarters on the race course, but we have been moved into a fine brick building, with baths, electric light, etc. They provide us with everything, from clothes down to tooth brushes. They also feed us, and we are constantly getting presents of vegetables and cigars from private people. In fact, we can have everything we like except our liberty."

**Secretary's
Work.**

Secretary Trueblood will spend the month of February in a course of lectures in the South, under the auspices of the Alkahest Lecture Lyceum of Atlanta, Ga. The course began on January 30 at Henderson, Ky., and will take in cities in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina. The subjects of the lectures will be "The Hague Conference; or the New Internationalism," "Modern Militarism; or the Colossal Crime of Europe," "The Federation of the World," and possibly other kindred topics.

Brevities.

. . . The *Anglo-Russian* says that "the Transvaal War affects not English and Boer alone. It has called to life again the spectre of aggressive militarism all over the world, after the recent seemingly mortal blow given to it at the Hague Peace Conference. The God of War has again been firmly fixed on his pedestal upon which he was seriously shaken but a few months ago. Therein lies the grave significance of the present South African calamity for the world at large."

. . . Mr. Walter S. Logan, a prominent member of the New York bar, maintains that every child born of Filipino parents since the treaty of Paris was ratified is a citizen of the United States, and can maintain his right to the franchise before the United States Supreme Court on coming of age.

. . . The eighteenth conference of the International Law Association, held at Buffalo Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 1899, was one of the most noteworthy in the history of the Association. The proceedings of the conference have been published at the office, 33 Chancery Lane, London, W. C. The report fills three hundred and fifty pages, and contains all the addresses and discussions. The price is three shillings and sixpence.

. . . A bill is before Congress, expected to become law in a short time, giving Porto Rico a suitable civil government and free trade with the United States.

. . . The Peace Committee of the Society of Friends of New England, representing the membership for the six New England States, has sent an address to President McKinley suggesting mediation by the United States at the earliest opportune moment, with the view of bringing to a speedy end the deplorable war in South Africa.

. . . "We are now friends with England and with all mankind. May we never see another war, for in my opinion there never was a good war or a bad peace."—*Benjamin Franklin in 1783.*

. . . "The fight in the next twenty-five years will be between militarism and the Church of Jesus Christ, and we might as well be preparing for it."—*Dr. George C. Lorimer.*

. . . "I for one would fain join the cadence of hammer-strokes that shall beat swords into ploughshares."—*John Ruskin.*

. . . The Dutch Peace Society has just published its twenty-seventh year-book, a valuable document of more than one hundred pages.

. . . The Society for International Study and Correspondence, founded in 1895, now has eighteen hundred members. It has committees in more than thirty European cities, and members in many parts of the world. The purpose of the Society, whose seat is at Paris, 77 rue Denfert-Rochereau, is to promote the "communion of peoples" through correspondence and the study of international questions.

. . . The International Peace Bureau at Berne, which acts in the name of the peace societies of the world, has sent an urgent request to President McKinley asking that the United States government offer to mediate in order to put an end to the Transvaal War.

. . . The Christian Endeavor petition with 17,844 signatures has been presented to Congress by Senator Hoar. About half the signers were voters. Thirty-seven states were represented, besides Canada and some foreign countries.

. . . On Washington's birthday in 1815, there was a great celebration in Boston of the treaty of peace then just concluded with Great Britain. There were sunrise artillery salutes, solemn services in King's Chapel participated in by all the state officials, hymns were sung, odes recited, a grand civic parade took place with many banners borne on horseback, a grand dinner was served at the Exchange Coffee House, at which thirteen toasts were given, the first of which was as follows:

. . . Welcome Peace! brought by a favorite conveyance to our shores. May the afflictions of the last seven years be considered as the transit of a baleful meteor, and remembered only to increase the joy with which all hearts and voices now unite to welcome Peace.

. . . On the battlefield of Franklin, Tenn., where one of the most furious battles of the Civil War was fought, has been erected an institution of learning called Battle College. The editor of the *Ellis Country* (Texas) *Mirror* hopes "that in educating its pupils into a better feeling of national fraternity, it will also teach them the uselessness of all wars, and the desirability of avoiding them in the future."

. . . "The worst work a man can put himself to in this world is shooting men.—*Andrew Carnegie*."

. . . These lines were written by Burns on a pane of glass on the occasion of a British national thanksgiving for a naval victory:

Ye hypocrites! Are these your pranks;
To murder men and gie God thanks?
For shame gie ower, proceed no further—
God won't accept your thanks for murder.

. . . A very remarkable sermon entitled, "A Plea for the Peace Lover and the Peacemaker in an Era of War and Strife" was preached on the 21st ult. in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, by Dr. Hillis, the successor of Dr. Lyman Abbott. The sermon is copyrighted by the Fleming H. Revell Co., New York.

. . . An earnest effort was made in December in France to secure the observance of Peace Sunday among the Protestant churches, and with most encouraging results.

. . . The difficulty between France and San Domingo has been satisfactorily settled, the latter agreeing to pay the indemnity demanded and the government undertaking to make a public declaration that no affront was intended for France.

. . . In an article on Christianity and warfare, the *Saturday Evening Post*, in a recent issue, says that "during this century the Christian nations have done most of the fighting in the world, and the worst of it has been among themselves."

. . . The President has created a new military department consisting of the territory of Alaska.

. . . The first agent of the American Bible Society arrived in Manila on the 26th of November last. He found that the whiskey agents had already captured the town. He says, "it is hard to find a respectable place to stop in the city, so many are the adventurers and whiskey people." He is very optimistic as to the work of the Bible Society, and says that the missionaries are sure to have great success.

. . . With an army of 100,000 men in actual service, the expenses of the war department for the current year will be about \$200,000,000.

. . . While England is spending her treasure at the rate of ten millions a week in trying to crush the South African Republic, one of the worst famines which India has known is raging. Lord Curzon, the viceroy, announces that the famine surpasses the worst fears, and that India must for the most part "struggle on alone, for the thoughts of every Englishman in the world are centered on South Africa." A great sin of commission is always accompanied by one or more of omission.

. . . During the last four months of 1899 the American forces in the Philippines lost 361 killed, 200 died of wounds and accidents, and 762 died of disease; that is, an entire regiment in four months.

. . . "Let it not be said that I am alone in my condemnation of this war. And even if I were alone, if mine were a solitary voice raised amid the din of arms and the clamors of a venal press, I should have the consolation I have to-night,—and which I trust will be mine to the last moment of my existence,—the priceless consolation that no word of mine has tended to promote the squandering of my country's treasure or the spilling of one drop of my country's blood."—*John Bright in 1854*.

. . . The *Topeka Daily Capital* has been placed by its owners in the hands of Rev. Charles M. Sheldon for one week beginning March 13, that he may try the experiment of making a Christian newspaper. It strikes us that, however noble the experiment, it will be about as difficult to make a successful Christian daily in a week's time as it would be to try to make a successful Christian life in the same period. We hope the week may extend itself into months and years.

. . . Count Tolstoy has denounced the war in South Africa as showing "the sordid and soulless commercialism that rules the world." He says it is "incomprehensible to him that England, boasting herself to be the land of freedom, should wish to crush out small republics which have never done her the slightest injury."

. . . Mrs. May Wright Sewall of Indianapolis, president of the International Council of Women, and one of the vice-presidents of the American Peace Society, has been appointed by President McKinley as a delegate to the congresses of the Paris Exposition. She is one of the two American women to be so honored, the other woman delegate being Mrs. Rebecca Lowe of Atlanta, Ga., president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.